



THE ASSAM GAZETTE

অসাধাৰণ

EXTRAORDINARY

প্ৰাপ্ত কৰ্তৃত্ব দ্বাৰা প্ৰকাশিত

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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

ORDERS BY THE GOVERNOR

REVENUE & DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

NOTIFICATION

The 9th January, 2025

No.ECF.523216/2024/3.- In cancellation of earlier Govt. Circulars/Office Memorandum issued vide No. RSS. 1001/2015/7 dated 10.07.2015, No. ECF. 235416/4 dated 21.10.2022 and all other Govt. Circulars/Office Memorandum issued relating to Re-classification of Jalatak (Wetland) to any other classes of land, the Governor of Assam is pleased to delegate the power to Director of Land Records & Surveys etc., Assam and District Commissioners for Re-classification of Jalatak (Wetland) to any other classes of land as follows :

In case of Rural areas -

A. (i) Jalatak (Wetland) land upto an area of 10 (ten) bigha owned by an individual or a non individual juridical entity and upto an area of 50 (fifty) bighas for setting up of Govt. projects of public importance, the approval authority will be **District Commissioners with recommendation of SDLAC**

(ii) Jalatak (Wetland) land more than 10 (ten) bigha and upto an area of 50 (fifty) bigha owned by an individual or a non individual juridical entity and land more than 50 bigha upto an area of 100 bighas for setting up of Govt. projects of public importance, the approval authority will be **Director of Land Records & Surveys etc., Assam.**

(iii) Re-classification of Jalatak (Wetland) land to any other classes of land not covered in the above categories shall continue with **Revenue & D.M. Department level.**

(iv) The re-classification premium shall be realized strictly in accordance with **Assam Agricultural Land (Regulation of Reclassification and Transfer for Non-Agricultural Purpose) Act, 2015 as amended.**

(v) Further, it should be ensured that target land class to which the reclassification is being sought is permissible as per local land use plan/master plan of jurisdictional local authority i.e. Municipal Corporation, Municipal Board, Development Authority, Gaon Panchayat, Cantonment Board etc.

In Case of Master Plan areas or Urban Town-

As per the Assam Urban Waterbodies (Preservation and Conservation) Act, 2024, the process of preparation of the Schedules of waterbodies for preservation and conservation are on the anvil. As such, this SOP should not be made operational in the Master Plan Areas of Assam till the final Schedules of waterbodies are notified by Department of Housing and Urban Affairs.

B. Time Sensitive Geospatial Analysis.

In all levels of approval, consideration of the **Geospatial Analysis and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** on reclassification of Jalatak (Wetland) will be mandatory as given below :

1. District Commissioner will obtain Time Sensitive Geo-spatial analysis report of the plot of Land whose land reclassification is required from Joint Director of Surveys, Assam.
2. Request letter to Joint Director of Surveys, Assam for time Sensitive Geo-Spatial analysis report, should contain the Location/ Geo-tagging of the plot of land (along with recent Photograph) to be provided by Land Record Assistant (LRA) of the concerned Revenue Circle Office.
3. Time Sensitive Geo-spatial analysis report to be prepared by the Joint Director of Surveys using Satellite imagery/ Imagery taken from Google Earth/ Aerial photograph for the last 10 (ten) years by observation of imageries of different time lapse.
4. In case of non-availability of satellite imageries:

CASE I: The Assam State Space Application Center (ASSAC) will provide the imagery of the required period to Joint Director of Surveys, Assam

CASE II: In case the imagery is not available with the ASSAC, they will provide the imagery of the required period by collecting from other agencies like Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

5. The geospatial report from Joint Director of Survey shall be unambiguous and conclusive - viz., the land lost its nature / ceased to continue / remain as wetland/ Jalatak, or the intended land parcel is still a wetland. In case of complexities, the report should state that no opinion could be formed based on available geospatial data.

C. Decision making by District Commissioner and DLR&S based on Geospatial Report

1. District Commissioners shall forward the proposals for Re-classification of Jalatak (wetland) land more than 10 (ten) bigha and upto an area of 50 (fifty) bighas owned by an individual or a non individual juridical entity and land more than 50 bighas upto an area of 100 bighas for setting up of Govt. projects of public importance through online portal to **Director of Land Records & Surveys., etc., Assam** for approval.

2. District Commissioners shall forward the proposals for Re-classification of Jalatak (wetland) land more than 50 (fifty) bighas owned by an individual or a non individual juridical entity and more than 100 bighas for setting up of Govt. projects of public importance through online portal to Govt, of Assam, Revenue & D.M Department for approval.
3. Director of Land Records & Surveys etc., Assam / District Commissioners shall not recommend any wetland for reclassification where it is revealed from geo-spatial temporal analysis of last 10 (ten) years that land has changed its character due to localized interventions like land filling, unscientific blocking of natural water channels, etc.
4. All authorities delegated powers under this notification shall carefully examine the geo-spatial report and only those lands should be allowed for reclassification from wetlands which have changed their character due to either a scientific intervention e.g. Construction of an embankment, creation of water shed structures, etc. or natural causes e.g. Change of course of a river / water channel, etc.

Note: It is highly recommended to identify all the wetlands / Jalatak/ Jaldoba (which are actually perennial in nature) by the district administration for its preservation. It will help to locate all the parcel within that wetland/ Jalatak/ Jaldoba to maintain its nature. It is seen that most of the reclassification proposal links to the land class which were assessed during the last resettlement period (as applicable to the district concerned) which was closed prior to 1980 and having any characteristic of same nature of the land parcel. Policy (with a holistic approach) on the preservation of wetland is becoming essential to maintain ecological equilibrium.

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Revenue & Disaster Management Department.